

**Amendments to the Claims**

For the convenience of the Examiner, all pending claims of the present Application are shown below whether or not an amendment has been made.

1. (Original) A method for providing a secure operating environment for a network accessible system comprising:

accessing a delay timer operably coupled to a communication module, the delay timer including a delay time interval;

comparing the delay time interval to an activity associated with the system communicating with the network; and

isolating the communication module from the network based on the comparison.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising disabling the communication module if the communication module remains idle for a time period greater than the delay time interval.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 2, wherein the disabling includes reducing a power state associated with the communication module.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 3, further comprising:

detecting a user initiated request to access the network;

altering the power state of the communication module;

initializing the communication module to communicate with the network; and

initializing the delay timer.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 2, wherein the disabling further comprises removing power supplied to the communication module.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the isolating further comprises disconnecting a communication port associated with the communication module.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising initializing the delay timer in response to the system initiating communication with the network.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising adjusting the delay time interval using a software interface associated with the delay timer.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising adjusting the delay time interval using a hardware interface associated with the delay timer.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:  
locating a reference within a memory associated with the delay timer, the reference operably associated with enabling the communication module; and  
removing the reference in response to the communication module being idle for a time period greater than the delay time interval.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:  
accessing a network location;  
disabling the communication module upon the communication module being idle for a time period greater than the delay time interval; and  
enabling the communication module upon determining a request to access the network location.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 11, further comprising:  
storing a network reference operable to identify the network location;  
removing a communication module reference from a memory stack associated with the communication module, the communication module reference associated with enabling the communication module;  
disabling the communication module upon the communication module remaining idle for a time period greater than the delay time interval; and  
copying the communication module reference to the memory stack upon detecting a request by the system to access the network location.

13. (Original) The method of Claim 12, further comprising:  
enabling the communication module; and  
accessing the network location using the network reference.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 12, further comprising initializing the delay timer upon detecting a user initiated request to access the network.

15. (Original) A system operable to communicate information via a network comprising:

means for accessing a delay timer operably coupled to a communication module, the delay timer including a delay time interval;

means for comparing the delay time interval to an activity associated with the system communicating with the network; and

means for isolating the communication module from the network based on the comparison.

16. (Original) The system of the Claim 15, further comprising means for disabling the communication module if the communication module remains idle for a time period greater than the delay time interval.

17. (Original) The system of Claim 16, further comprising means for reducing a power state associated with the communication module.

18. (Original) The system of Claim 17, further comprising:  
means for detecting a user initiated request to access the network;  
means for altering the power state of the communication module;  
means for initializing the communication module to communicate with the network;  
and  
means for resetting the delay timer.

19. (Original) A medium comprising encoded logic for providing a secure operating environment operable to:

access a delay timer operably coupled to a communication module, the delay timer including a delay time interval;

compare the delay time interval to activity operably associated with a system communicating with a network; and

isolate the communication module from the network based on the comparison.

20. (Original) The medium of Claim 19, further comprising logic operable to:

locate a reference within a memory associated with the delay timer, the reference operably associated with enabling the communication module; and

remove the reference in response to the communication module being idle for a time period greater than the delay time interval.

21. (Original) The medium of Claim 19, further comprising logic operable to:

access a network location;

disable the communication module upon the communication module being idle for a time period greater than the delay time interval; and

enable the communication module upon determining a request to access the network location.

22. (Original) The medium of Claim 21, further comprising logic operable to:

store a network reference operable to identify the network location;

remove a communication module reference from a memory stack associated with the communication module, the communication module reference associated with enabling the communication module;

disable the communication module upon the communication module remaining idle for a time period greater than the delay time interval; and

copy the communication module reference to the memory stack upon detecting a request by the system to access the network location.

23. (Original) The medium of Claim 22, further comprising logic operable to:  
enable the communication module; and  
access the network location using the network reference.

24. (Original) A device operable to provide a secure operating environment for  
accessing a network comprising:  
a communication module operable to communicate information via the network;  
a delay timer operably coupled to the communication module; and  
the delay timer including a delay time interval operable to enable communication  
between the communication module and the network.

25. (Original) The device of Claim 24, further comprising:  
a data bus coupled to the communication module and a processor; and  
the data bus operable to communicate information based on the delay time interval.

26. (Original) The device of Claim 24, further comprising a memory operable to  
store the delay time interval.

27. (Original) The device of Claim 24, further comprising a communication  
module reference operable to be stored within the memory.

28. (Original) The device of Claim 24, further comprising the delay time interval  
programmed via an interface associated with the delay timer.

29. (Original) The device of Claim 28, further comprising the delay time interval  
programmed using a delay time interval reference and a communication module reference.

30. (Original) The device of Claim 24, further comprising a power state operably  
associated with the delay timer and the power state operable to provide power to the  
communication module.

31. (Original) The device of Claim 24, further comprising:  
a communication port communicatively coupling the communication module and the network; and

the communication port operable based on the delay time interval.

32. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the activity associated with the system is any communication between the system and the network.

33. (New) The method of Claim 19, wherein the activity operably associated with the system is any communication between the system and the network.